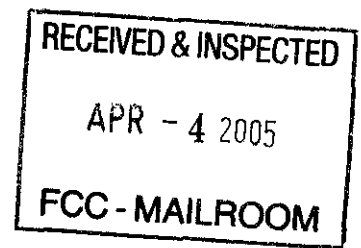




State of New Jersey

DIVISION OF THE RATEPAYER ADVOCATE
31 CLINTON STREET, 11TH FLOOR
P.O. BOX 46005
NEWARK NJ 07101

RICHARD J. CODEY
Acting Governor



SEEMA M. SINGH, ESQ.
Ratepayer Advocate
and Director
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

March 30, 2005

**VIA ELECTRONIC &
OVERNIGHT DELIVERY**

Marlene Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Applications for the Transfer of Control of Licenses
and Authorizations from Nextel Communications, Inc. and its
Subsidiaries to Sprint Corporation
WT Docket No. 05-63**

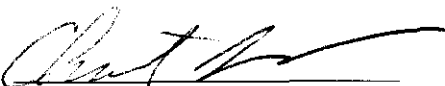
Dear Secretary Dortch:

The New Jersey Division of the Ratepayer Advocate ("Ratepayer Advocate")
hereby submits this Petition to Deny in the above-captioned proceeding.

Respectfully Submitted,

SEEMA M. SINGH, ESQ.
RATEPAYER ADVOCATE

By:


Christopher J. White, Esq.
Deputy Ratepayer Advocate

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Cc: (Via Electronic Mail)

Best Copy & Printing
Louis Peraertz, Spectrum & Competition Policy Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Sara Mechanic, Spectrum & Competition Policy Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Erin McGrath, Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Dennis Johnson, Broadband Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Jeff Tobias, Public Safety & Critical Infrastructure Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
David Krech, Policy Division, International Bureau

Tel: (973) 648-2690 • Fax: (973) 624-1047 • Fax: (973) 648-2193
<http://www.rpa.state.nj.us> E-Mail: njratepayer@rpa.state.nj.us

Pamela Megna, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau
Jim Bird, Office of General Counsel
Jonathan Levy, Office of Strategic Planning & Policy Analysis
Wayne McKee, Engineering Division, Media Bureau
Charles Iseman, Experimental Licensing Branch, Office of Engineering & Technology
JoAnn Lucanik, Satellite Division, International Bureau
Sue E. Benedek, Sprint

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the matter of)	
)	
Applications for the Transfer of Control of)	WT Docket No. 05-63
Licenses and Authorizations from Nextel)	
Communications, Inc. and its Subsidiaries to)	
Sprint Corporation)	

Petition to Deny

of

The New Jersey Division of the Ratepayer Advocate

SEEMA M. SINGH, ESQ.
RATEPAYER ADVOCATE
New Jersey Division of the Ratepayer Advocate
31 Clinton Street
Newark, New Jersey 07101
Christopher J. White, Esq.
Deputy Ratepayer Advocate
(973) 648-2690
cwhite@rpa.state.nj.us

In order to protect all ratepayers, the New Jersey Division of the Ratepayer Advocate (“Ratepayer Advocate”) is statutorily authorized to represent all New Jersey utility consumers, including consumers of telecommunications services.¹ Both Nextel Communications, Inc. (“Nextel”) and Sprint Corporation (“Sprint”) operate in New Jersey or otherwise provide telecommunications services to consumers in New Jersey.

The Application for Transfer of Control (“Application”) filed by Nextel and Sprint (“Applicants”) asserts that merger will enhance the merged company’s position as the premier wireless communications carrier, will significantly benefit consumers, will promote development of wireless interactive multimedia services, and will promote competition. Applicants assert that these alleged results could not be achieved as quickly by each company on a stand alone basis.

Pursuant to Sections 214(a) and 310 (d) of the Communications Act, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission”) must determine whether the Applicants have demonstrated that the proposed transfer of control of licenses and authorizations will serve and further the public interest.

The public interest standards of Sections 214 (a) and 310 (d) involve a balancing process that weighs the potential public interest harm of the proposed transaction against the potential public interest benefits. The public interest evaluation encompasses the broad aims of the Act including a deep rooted preference for preserving and enhancing competition in relevant markets, accelerating private sector deployment of advanced services, ensuring a diversity of licenses and management of the spectrum. This entails, but is not limited to, assessing whether the merger will affect

¹ See Executive Order 001-1994, N.J.S.A. 13:1D-1(1994) and N.J.S.A. 52:27E-50, *et. seq.*

the quality of communications services or will result in the provision of new or additional services to consumers.

The proposed transfer poses significant adverse affects upon all wireless services consumers, and New Jersey wireless services consumers in particular. The Ratepayer Advocate hereby asks that the FCC deny the above captioned Application unless appropriate conditions are imposed to guarantee that

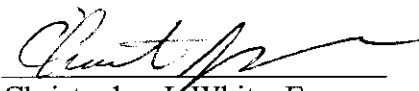
- Competition will not be harmed by virtue of the elimination of a substantial competitor in the wireless telecommunications service market;
- Consumers will not be harmed by the reduced competition when the current price competition by and between Applicants cease.
- The merged company will bring to market expeditiously the advanced technologies referenced in the Application and at fair and reasonable prices to consumers even if Applicants can demonstrate no adverse effects on competition are present.

Unless Applicants sustain their burden of proof, and appropriate conditions are imposed, the transaction is not in the public interest. Therefore, the Ratepayer Advocate respectfully asks that the Commission deny the transfer of control of licenses and authorizations at this time.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statements are true and correct.

SEEMA M. SINGH, ESQ.
RATEPAYER ADVOCATE

Date: March 30, 2005

By: 

Christopher J. White, Esq.
Deputy Ratepayer Advocate